

... Let's Go

By LARRY MACARAY

The United States has been entering into a new era of affluence that is unparalleled in our economic history. Even the poor souls who have been discriminated against, economically deprived, and lacking in education seem to a brighter future where the cultural arts are concerned. Our former work-oriented society now seems to have a great deal of leisure time on its hands. An ever increasing problem today is how to fill the leisure time for people who never had it before.

People, especially men, have always found it rather difficult to enter libraries or art galleries with any degree of self-assurance. Even to this day, there seems to be an aura of doubt in entering libraries or art galleries for the majority of men. In spite of this little tid-bit of rare knowledge, art galleries have doubled in number in New York since 1950. At that time there were 150 galleries and today there are more than 300.

Wall Street investors predicted at the beginning of 1966 that the two best investments in 1966 would be real estate and fine arts, particularly paintings. Tight money has slowed the real estate market down to a walk—and oddly enough the fine arts have been booming to unbelievable heights. Good art is easy to buy—and let's face it, people do have money, even though it's earning big interest or safely tucked away in the mattress.

THE LOS ANGELES area is second only to New York in the number of art galleries and the dollar volume of art sales. The art gallery business here in the southland has seen a phenomenal increase in the number of galleries, frequency of changing exhibitions and with all this activity—an increasing number of young art collectors. No art-oriented visitor to Southern California can ignore the strange activity known as "The Monday Night Art Walk." More than 25 art galleries in a quarter-mile stretch of La Cienega Boulevard take part in it.

They remain open every Monday night until 10 o'clock to accommodate the throngs of visitors (hopefully buyers) who stroll in and out of the brightly lighted galleries to inspect and comment on the week's offerings. If one is lucky, he can time it just right enough to attend one or two champagne openings. The gallery owners always hope that the champagne will tend to loosen the buyer's pocketbook.

There have been many instances when it has been far greater interest to just stand on the streetcorner and watch the unique display of roving humanity than to bruise the eyeballs with some so-called art displayed in the galleries. The strangest arrays of "people" roam the sidewalks on these Monday nights and I would recommend this area for the purpose of "bird-watching" as well as gallery hopping.

TO BE SERIOUS, there is a great deal of contemporary art being exhibited on La Cienega. Vincent Price and Aaron Bros. have invaded the street, as well as some rather

dubious commercial galleries, but the work is there for you to choose. Even though we try to be as broad-minded as possible concerning new art trends, some of the work that is highly touted as the newest and best is impossible to communicate with.

With few exceptions, none of these galleries is more than five years old. Twenty-five years ago there were

three art galleries in all of Los Angeles that could be seriously and professionally accepted as art galleries. They still exist. The first gallery on La Cienega was opened in 1947 and ten years ago there were only 25 in the city that could meet the standards set by the first three.

The new County Art Museum cannot fail to stimulate even greater interest in art throughout the Southland, even to such far away places as Torrance and Anaheim. Let's hope that more libraries, theaters and art galleries will be built in Southern California to offset the hundreds of bowling alleys, pool halls, and ball parks.

Angel Awards Salute Chapel Theatre Stars

Theatre's equivalent of the Oscar—have been won by Darlene Chaffee, Roger Elliott, and Lou Bruhnke. Mrs. Chaffee, a resident of Seal Beach, was honored as the best dramatic actress for her role in "The Rose Tattoo," while Elliott, of Hermosa Beach, was named best dramatic actor for his role in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"

Bruhnke, a Hermosa Beach resident, was honored as the best director for his work on "The Rose Tattoo."

OTHER top winners during the theatre group's annual awards dinner included Norma Dobrick of Torrance, best comedy actress for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum;" Fred West of Fountain Valley, best comedy actor for "Nobody Loves an Albatross;" Julie Bradley of Los Angeles, best supporting actress in "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"; and Billy Creamer of Palos Verdes, best supporting actor in "Mr. Roberts."

Also honored were Betty Schroeder of Torrance, best producer for "Mr. Roberts;" Phyllis Monda of Lomita, best juvenile actress for "Rose Tattoo;" Rick Gates of Rolling Hills, best juvenile actor for "Rose Tattoo;" Pamela Deckett of Torrance, best character actress for "Rose Tattoo;" and Paul Hadrian, best character actor for "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum."

A SPECIAL award for outstanding achievement was presented to Kay Ponce of Torrance and Joe Crowe, also with Chadwick School. It previously was located at St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church.

son, Edd Linskey. Judges were Marx Cedar, William Gerber, Rita Hartman, Hal Lepper, and Bob Saunders.

NEW FACILITY

Work on the Town and Country Nursery School on the Rolling Hills campus of Chadwick School is nearing completion. The school operates under a lease agreement with Chadwick School. It previously was located at St. Peter's by the Sea Presbyterian Church.

IN NEW JOB
G. A. Seymour has been named manager of the engineering department of West Coast Pipe Lines for the Mobil Oil Corp. Seymour is returning from Venezuela to assume his new position.

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